from fare increase for specific distances in certain years. With the fares for IInd class (ordinary) remaining unchanged for the last 3 years, the existing position will continue until the fares are suitably revised.

[English]

Funds for Agriculture Sector

2197. DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated to each State for the development of Agriculture during the last year and current financial year;

(b) the funds actually utilized by each State during the said period;

(c) whether some State Governments have sought more funds for the purpose during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (e). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Looting of Bus

2198. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Nainital bound Delhi bus was looted near Mussoorie;

(b) if so, the details of amount looted from the passengers;

(c) the number of persons arrested in this regard;

(d) the number of buses looted in Uttar Pradesh during 1995 and upto July 1996, and

(e) the action taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

IFFCO

2199. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether IFFCO has purchased sub standard MOP from IPL of the Russian origin at $ 126 C&F with letter of credit;

(b) whether IFFCO had ignored Jordan MOP of better grade which was available at the same price without letter of credit;

(c) whether IFFCO had a stock of 90 thousand tons at Kandla plant;

(d) if so, the reasons for purchasing sub-standard material of Russian make;

(e) whether IFFCO had claimed penalty in the pat as per F.C.O. on Russian material on particle size of MOP; and

(f) if so, he reasons for not claiming penalty on particle size this time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) In September'95, IFFCO signed a contract with IPL for the purchase of MOP with an option to source it from any of the producers, namely, Jordan, Israel, Russia and Germany at the Rupee equivalent of US $ 126 per metric tonne on C&F basis without any letter of credit and with 180 days credit. The quality of Russian MOP supplied by IPL against this contract was of the requisite standard prescribed for its use in the manufacture of complex fertilizers.

(b) IFFCO had not received any specific offer for supply of MOP from Jordan.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. At the time of contracting, IFFCO had a stock of only 25,000 MTs of MOP which was not adequate.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) In April' 95, the Government of India clarified that the MOP used for production of complex fertilizers does not fall within the scope of Fertilizers (Control) Order, 1985. As a consequence the material supplied by IPL under this contract and used by IFFCO for the manufacture of complex fertilizers did not attract penalty on account of particle size deviations.

Vohra Committee Report

2200. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vohra Committee Report has been submitted to the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). Vohra Committee was set up under Shri N.N. Vohra, Ex-Home Secretary and comprising Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (RAW), Director (IB) and Director (CBI) as its Members, to take stock of all available information about the activities and links for crime syndicates/Mafia Organisations which had developed links with and were being protected by Government functionaries and political personalities. The Report of the Vohra Committee was placed before the Parliament on 1.8.1995 on which there was full scale debate in the Parliament. The Vohra Committee report had recommended setting up of a Nodal Agency at the level of Home Secretary. The Government had accordingly set up a Nodal Agency on 2nd August, 1995 with the Home Secretary as the Chairman and Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (RAW), Director (IB) and Director (CBI) as members. The Nodal Agency has started functioning and has held seven meetings since it set up. The Nodal Agency in its meetings generally reviews the information available with the different agencies, relating to the activities of major crime syndicates and the course of action to be taken by the field formations. The Question of inter-agency coordination and inter-agency support in the pursuit of cases as per law is considered and appropriate decisions taken with regard to requirements of such support and cooperation. In the interest of better inter-Departmental coordination, the Nodal Agency was reconstituted with effect from 5.1.1996 with Cabinet Secretary assuming charge as Chairman of the Nodal Agency and with Home Secretary, Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (RAW), Director (IB) and Director (CBI) as Members.

[Translation]

Conversion into Broad Gauge Line

2201. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which all the meter gauge railway lines are likely to be converted into broad gauge under the present Unigauge Policy of the Government; and

(b) the time by which North-Eastern Railway propose to convert the present meter gauge Railway line between Samastipur and Khagaria into broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) All MG lines are not proposed to be converted.

(b) There is no proposal for conversion of this line at present.

[English]

Dissection of Animals in Schools

2202. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have appointed a Committee for control and supervision of experiments on animals under the prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960;

(b) whether the Committee has suggested that dissection of animals in schools should be stopped; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A draft Notification of intent making necessary amendments in the "Experiments on Animals (Control & Supervisions) Rules 1968" has been issued seeking the suggestions/objections from the public, Central/State Govt. Departments and other interested parties. Government will take the decision after considering the views of all the parties involved in the matter.

[Translation]

Production Cost of Fertilizers

2203. SHRI SOHANBEER : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cost of production of fertilizers has increased during the year 1996-97 as compared to that of 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of fertilizer producing units have been getting sick despite the financial assistance being provided by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) The efforts being made to revitalise these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b). There is likely to be some increase in the cost of production of various fertilizers during 1996-97 mainly on account of increase in the price of various petroleum products and increase in the rates of railway freight.